

# PTI students for 2-year upgraded course

Times Report

The government decision to reduce the duration of primary teachers training course in the PTIs from two years back to one year is being opposed by the students who are now undergoing training.

It was on the basis of demands placed by primary teachers that the government recently took the decision. But teachers deputed for training at the 47 PTIs comprise only one-fourth of the about 6,000 trainees enrolled.

The 4,500 freshers at the Primary Training Institutes, who also have formed a central action council to press home the demand for continuation of the 2-year course, recently held a news conference in Dhaka to make their voice heard.

Their arguments include: they got themselves admitted to the PTIs only because upgradation of the course to two years opened for them the opportunity to take up higher studies on its completion, for the PTI pass-outs were supposed to be treated as Higher Secondary Certificate pass-outs and that the up-graded two-year course was concerned where they stated ard of training at the institute.

They also say that the upgradation of the course promised them opportunity to get em-

ployed as teachers in primary schools and that the terms under which they were admitted in 1983 would no longer remain valid if the recent decision was implemented.

The teachers who come to the PTIs for training on deputation consider the two-year course much time consuming. But the training is considered essential for advancement of one's career in that on completion of the training a teacher gets some advance, increments and qualifies to be promoted to headmaster-ship in due course.

From the side of the primary teachers there has also been the argument that those teachers who already had H.S.C. to even Bachelor's Degrees had no use of going through a 2-year H.S.C. (Education) course at the PTIs and that the old one-year course was enough to give them neces-

sary guidance for effective teaching.

Against this the freshers at the PTIs point out that the institutes could continue the one-year course for those teachers having H.S.C. and Bachelor's degrees and maintain the 2-year H.S.C. (Education) course for freshers.

The Students Action Council of the PTIs have in the mean time submitted memorandum of their demands to the authorities concerned wherein they stated that they might go for movement if the demands were not fulfilled by July 7 next.

The Students Action Council of the PTIs also propose the staging of demonstrations in Dhaka city on July 14 if their demands went unheeded.

It may be mentioned here that the primary teachers training was upgraded in July 1983 and the old one-year course was substituted for the 2-year course which was finalised by the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) in August the same year.

The upgradation was done because the one-year Certificate in Education Course was considered inadequate by both the Kader-e-Khuda Education Commission, and the National Syllabus and Curriculum Committee that was formed on the basis of the report of the Commission.

At the time of introduction of the 2-year course the authorities concerned expressed the hope that the upgraded course would provide for the prospect of future advancement of the trainees both in the field of training and general education, because the course was to be linked with normal higher education streams. The one-year Certificate in Education course did not have such link. It was also hoped that the upgradation of the course would generate a sense of job security and better career prospect to the primary teachers. The upgradation was also expected to attract more talented people to the PTIs and the primary schools.